Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are prepared by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as, an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains helpful vocabulary explanations and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is geared towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).

CBC

Lesson Plan prepared by Kathleen Hall and Deidre Lake, Communication4Integration Inc.

NEWSCAST 1
Syrian refugees settle in Calgary

Syrian families wait to register in Tripoli, Lebanon. (Associated Press)

General Warm-up Activity

How did you immigrate, or come to live in Canada? Do you have friends who came to Canada by a different path? Give examples of the different ways to come to Canada.

VOCABULARY

Complete the vocabulary activities below before listening to the news story.

Vocabulary Building Activity 1: Creating Awareness

Look at the words and phrases below. Circle the ones you do not know.

refugee	flee/fled	chaos	relatives	raised funds
sponsor	process	application	made it	pay back

Vocabulary Building Activity 2: Developing Knowledge

Match the words with the definitions provided. (n) = noun (v)=verb idioms and colocations [words that are used together]

Answer		
	refugee (n)	A. Form to be filled out as a formal request to an authority such as the government (n)
	flee/fled (v)	B. Procedure, method , the way things are done (v)
	chaos (n)	C. Family members n)
	relatives (n)	D. Mess, Confusion, turmoil, unruliness ((n)
	raised funds (colocation)	D. Arrived—reached a goal.
	sponsor (n)	E. Immigrant who is in danger in their original country (n)
	process (v)	F. Run way, escape fled (v)
	application (n)	G. Champion, Guarantor, benefactor a group or person who agrees to provide settlement assistance, food and shelter to refugees. (n)
	made it (idiom)	H. do the same, respond in kind, return the favor
	pay back (idiom)	I. to work to earn money or ask for donations to help someone else

(See the answer key for answers)

Can you give an example of some applications you have had to fill out recently?

On a scale of 1 to 5, how difficult was this exercise for you?

1	2	3	4	5
Very Easy	Easy	Somewhat Difficult	Difficult	Very Difficult

LISTENING

Complete the listening activities below in order.

Pre-listening Activity

Look at the title: Syrian refugees settle in Calgary. Do you think Canada is welcoming to refugees?

Listening Activity 1: Listening for comprehension

First, listen for overall comprehension. See the questions below to assist you.

Note taking

Listen to the story. Take notes about what the speaker says about each country?

Country	What the speaker said
Syria	
Lebanon	
Canada	

(See the answer key for answers)

Language Focus:

Sequencing adverbs

First, Then, Next, After that, Finally.

We use sequence adverbs to show the order in which things happen.

Sequence adverbs include: first, next, then, after that, finally.

An example of using sequence adverbs to tell about what we do every morning would be:

First, I get dressed. Then, I eat breakfast. Next, I brush my teeth. After that, I check my homework. Finally, I go to English lessons.

As you have noticed, we use a comma to separate sequence adverbs from the rest of the sentence. [Modern usage means that you do not have to use a comma after "then"].

Sequence adverbs	Meaning	
First	Earliest, Initial	
Then	Have the same meaning, and can be used in any order except first and last.	Later
Next		After
After that		Following
Finally	Lastly, to finish, to end	

Listening Activity 3: Final Listening

Now listen to the news story for a third time. This time, using the sequence adverbs as clues, put Samar, Jomana, and Lionardo's story in order:

The family made it to Calgary

They left Syria

They waited for nine months

They went to Lebanon

They got news that they could come to Canada

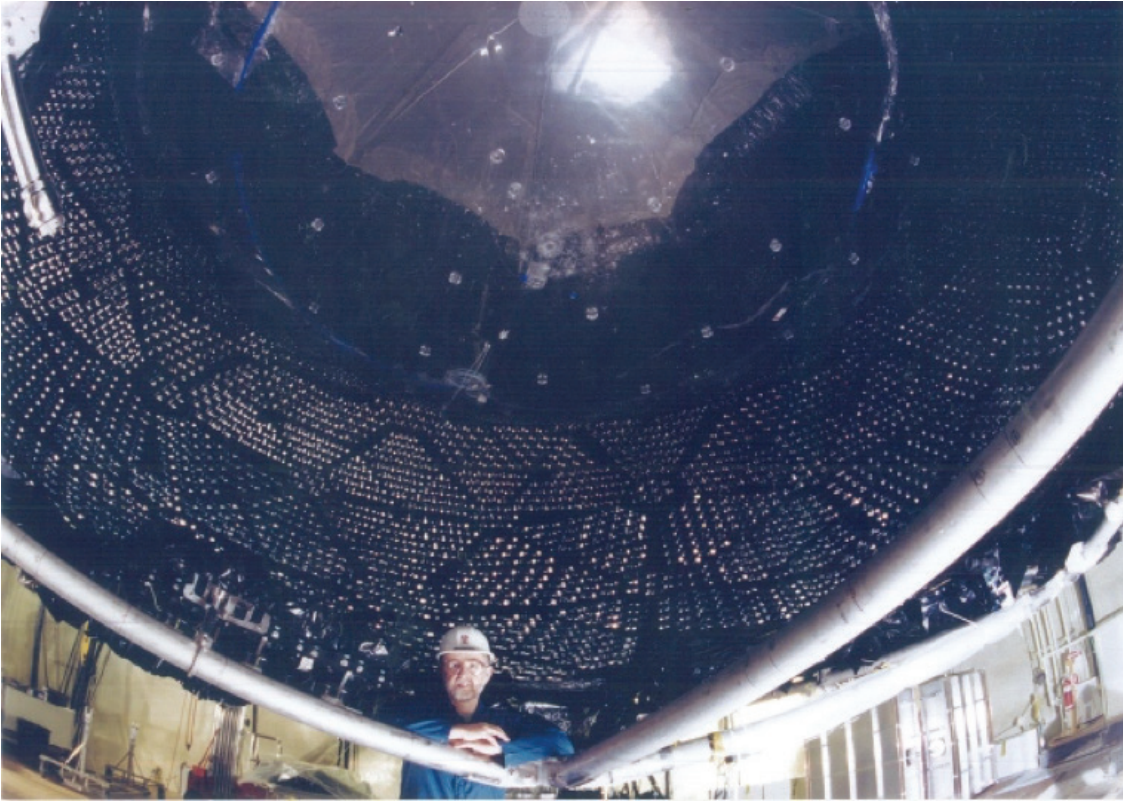| First,	
Then,	
Next,	
After that,	
Finally,	

(See the answer key for answers)

Additional Activities:

1) Compare your answers with a partner or colleague if doing this in a classroom setting or with a colleague.
2) Use your notes to retell this story in English to a friend or family member to practice your speaking skills.
3) Using these same sequencing adverbs, tell your story about coming to Canada.

Discussion Questions:

In your opinion, is Canada welcoming to refugees?

General Warm-up Activity

What do you know about the Nobel Prize? Can you name any Nobel Laureates [winners]?

VOCABULARY

Before you listen to the news story, look at the words/expressions below and their meanings.
These will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary	Meaning
co-winner	one of two or more joint winners
physics	branch of science concerned with matter and energy
colleague	coworker, teammate
conducting	running, leading, supervising
neutrinos	Tiny particles [a very small piece or part] that are smaller than atoms
committee	Group, team, board

LISTENING

Listening Activity 1: Listening for comprehension

Listen to the second news story from the audio file. First, listen for overall comprehension. See the questions below to assist you.

Where did Arthur McDonald teach?

What did Arthur McDonald win?

When was the prize announced?

How much will he share in Canadian dollars?

(See the answer key for answers)

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific purposes

Listen again. This time fill in the blanks below with what you hear.

Arthur McDonald, a retired professor from Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., is the

_____ of the 2015 Nobel Prize in _____. He shares the award with a

Japanese _____ who was _____ similar research on _____.

The winners were announced by a _____ at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in

Stockholm on Tuesday. McDonald will split a prize of eight million Swedish kronor (which is almost

$1.3 million Canadian).

McDonald said "I have many _____ as well who share this prize with me".

(See the answer key for answers)

Discussion Questions:

Do you think Canadians are proud of Arthur McDonald? Why or why not?

NEWSCAST 3
Canada's refugees: Where they come from by the numbers

Refugees walk along the railway tracks in Hungary after crossing the border from Serbia. (Santi Palacios/Associated Press)

General Warm-up Activity

Where are the majority of new Canadians you know from? Have you seen immigrants from other countries recently?

LISTENING

Listening Activity 1: Listening for comprehension

Listen to the third news story from the audio file. Listen for overall comprehension.

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific purposes

Listen to the news story again. Listen for the following numbers. What do they represent?

Number	Represents	Write the number
twenty-six thousand		
ten		
nineteen seventy		

(See the answer key for answers)
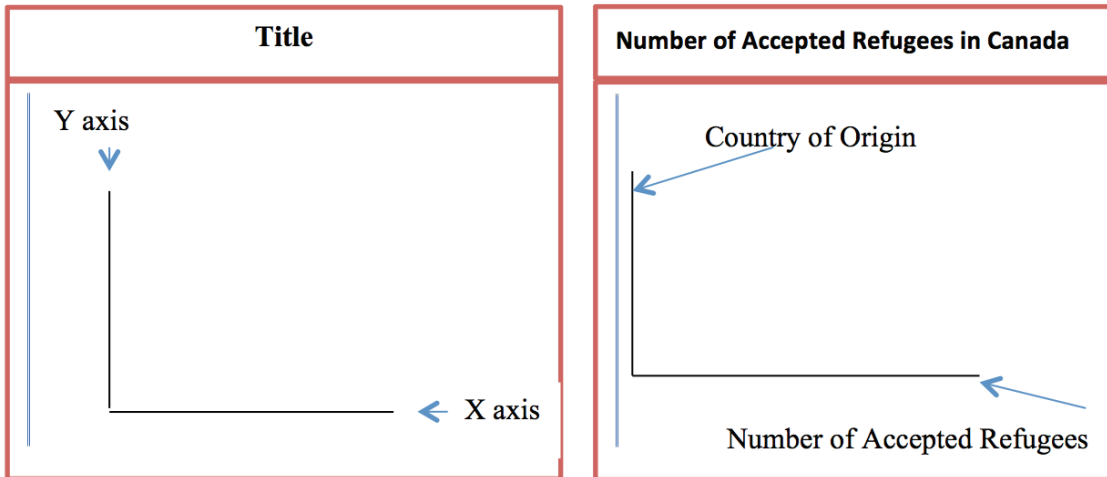
Language Focus:

Understanding Charts and Graphs

Understanding graphs and charts is important.

Charts and graphs give you information at a glance.

First, you should look at the title of the graph then look at the titles for the x and y axis so that you understand what the graph is about.

Look at the picture below to understand the meaning of Y and X axis
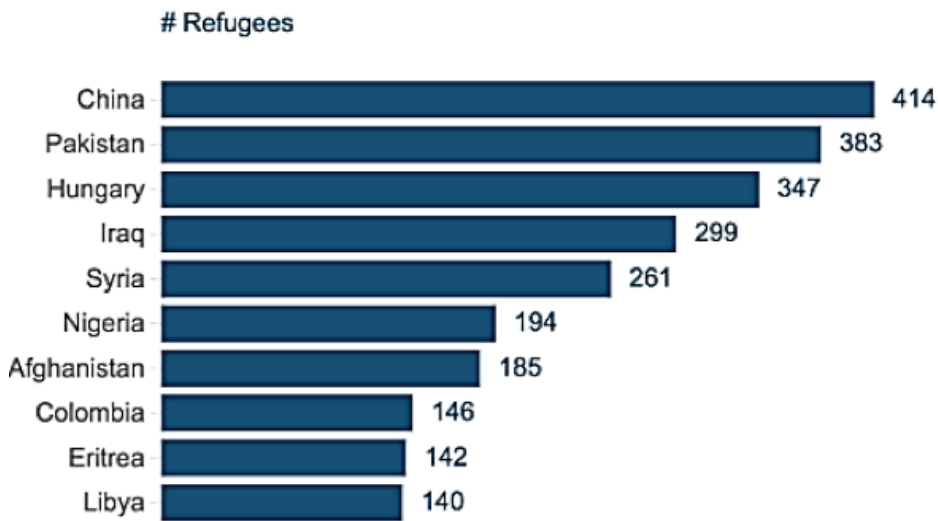

Language Focus Activity 1:

What is this graph about?

_____

What is the Y axis?

_____

What is the x axis?

_____

(See the answer key for answers)

Number of Accepted Refugees January to June 2015

 # Refugees

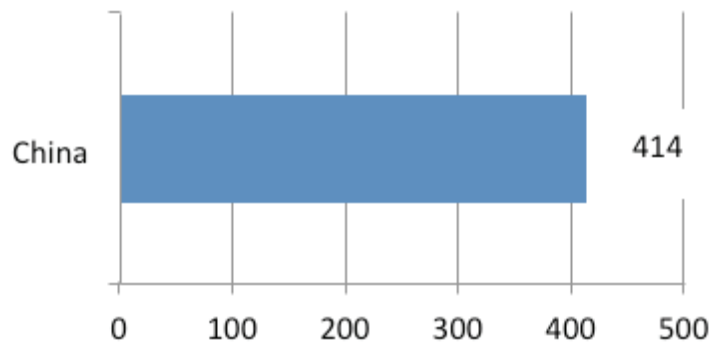| Country	# Refugees
China	414
Pakistan	383
Hungary	347
Iraq	299
Syria	261
Nigeria	194
Afghanistan	185
Colombia	146
Eritrea	142
Libya	140

CBC News | Made with Chartbuilder   Source: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

So we can see from this chart that that the number of Accepted refugees from China in January to June was 414.

Number of Accepted Refugees

Language Focus Activity 2:

Using the Bar Graph, fill in the table below. Two examples are done for you.

Country of origin	Number of accepted refugees
China	414
Nigeria	194

(See the answer key for answers)

Discussion Questions:

In your opinion, is immigration important to Canada?

Can you give some examples to support your answer?

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of October 12th.	0:00
Syrian refugees settle in Calgary	A Syrian refugee family of three is spending their first full week in Calgary. Samar, Jomana, and their young son, Lionardo, first fled the fighting and chaos in Syria 3 years ago. Next, they made their way to Lebanon. They stayed with relatives there and continued to hope that one day they could come to Canada as refugees. Then 2 years later, they received the news that the Saint Bonaventure church in North East Calgary had raised funds to sponsor the family. After that, it took nine months to process their application. Finally, they made it to Calgary. They are safe and look forward to their future. Samar hopes that one day he can pay back those people who helped him.	0:10
Arthur B. McDonald latest Canadian Nobel Prize winner	Arthur McDonald, a retired professor from Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., is the co-winner of the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics. He shares the award with a Japanese colleague who was conducting similar research on neutrinos. The winners were announced by a committee at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm on Tuesday. McDonald will split a prize of eight million Swedish kronor (which is almost $1.3 million Canadian). McDonald said "I have many colleagues as well who share this prize with me".	1:12
Canada's refugees: Where they come from by the numbers	Refugees from nearly every country have come to Canada over the years. And often the countries they came from reflect the history of international crises, like Syria and Iraq today or Chile and Bangladesh in the 1970s and Sri Lanka and Haiti more recently. Over the last 10 years, about 26,000 refugees arrived in Canada annually, according to recent numbers from Citizenship and Immigration Canada.	2:00

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWS STORY 1:

Vocabulary Building Activity 2: Developing Knowledge

Match the words with the definitions provided. (n) = noun (v)=verb idioms and colocations [words that are used together].

Answer		
F	Refugee (n)	A. Request, as in a formal request to an authority (n)
G	Flee/fled (v)	B. Procedure, method , the way things are done (v)
D	Chaos (n)	C. Family members n)
C	Relatives (n)	D. Mess, Confusion, turmoil, unruliness ((n)
J	raised funds (colocation)	E. Arrived—reached a goal.
H	Sponsor (n)	F. Immigrant who is in danger in their original country (n)
B	Process (v)	G. Run way, escape fled (v)
A	Application (n)	H. Champion, Guarantor, benefactor a group or person who agrees to provide settlement assistance, food and shelter to refugees. (n)
E	made it (idiom)	I. do the same, respond in kind, return the favor
I	pay back (idiom)	J. to work to earn money or ask for donations to help someone else

Listening Activity 1: Listening for comprehension

First, listen for overall comprehension. See the questions below to assist you.

Note taking

Listen to the story. Take notes about what the speaker says about each country?

Country	What the speaker said
Syria	Fled fighting and chaos
Lebanon	Stayed with relatives
Canada	Safe. Look forward to future

Listening Activity 3: Final Listening

Now listen to the news story for a third time. This time, using the sequence adverbs as clues, put Samar, Jomana, and Lionardo's story in order:

First,	They left Syria
Then,	They went to Lebanon
Next,	They got news that they could come to Canada
After that,	They waited for nine months
Finally,	The family made it to Calgary

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWS STORY 2:

Listening Activity 1: Listening for comprehension

Listen to the second news story from the audio file. First, listen for overall comprehension. See the questions below to assist you.

Where did Arthur McDonald teach?

Queens University/Kingston, Ontario

What did Arthur McDonald win?

2015 Nobel Prize in Physics

When was the prize announced?

Tuesday

How much will he share in Canadian dollars?

1.3 million /1,300,000

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWS STORY 3:

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific purposes

Listen again. This time fill in the blanks below with what you hear.

Arthur McDonald, a retired professor from Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., is the co-winner of the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics. He shares the award with a Japanese colleague who was conducting similar research on neutrinos.

The winners were announced by a committee at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm on Tuesday. McDonald will split a prize of eight million Swedish kronor (which is almost $1.3 million Canadian).

McDonald said "I have many colleagues as well who share this prize with me".

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific purposes

Listen to the news story again. Listen for the following numbers. What do they represent?

Number	Represents	Write the number
Twenty-six thousand	refugees	26,000
ten	number of years	10
Nineteen seventy	year/date	1970

Language Focus:
Understanding Charts and Graphs
Language Focus Activity 1:

What is this graph about?

Number of Accepted Refugees in Canada

What is the Y axis?

Country of Origin

What is the x axis?

Number of Accepted Refugees

Language Focus Activity 2:

Using the Bar Graph, fill in the table below. Two examples are done for you.

Country of origin	Number of accepted refugees
China	414
Pakistan	383
Hungary	347
Iraq	299
Syria	261
Nigeria	194
Afghanistan	185
Columbia	146
Eritrea	142
Libya	140

Thank you for downloading this lesson plan. If you have any feedback or comments regarding this lesson, please email Deidre Lake at info@communication4integration.ca